

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF EUROPE WELCOMES PORTUGUESE COUP

1. DURING COUNCIL OF EUROPE SESSION IN STRASBOURG MAY 6-10, MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS JOINED TO WELCOME RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AND POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL PORTUGUESE MEMBERSHIP IN COUNCIL.

2. FOREIGN MINISTERS OF SEVENTEEN, MEETING MAY 6, "EXPRESSED

HOPE THAT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WOULD LEAD TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRACY AND TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF FUTURE AFRICAN TERRITORIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SELF DETERMINATION". THE MINISTERS ALSO RECALLED, IN THIS REGARD, THAT THE COUNCIL IS OPEN TO ALL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACIES.

3. IN THEIR DEBATE OF PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS MAY 9, PARLIAMENTARIANS OF SEVENTEEN WERE LESS GUARDED, ALTHOUGH A MINORITY

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OF SPEAKERS EXPRESSED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ON THE CONTINUED

PORTUGUESE MILITARY ENGAGEMENT IN AFRICA. FOLLOWING DEBATE, RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WELCOMING THE REMOVAL OF DICTATORSHIP, UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTling THE FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF SELF DETERMINATION, LOOKING FORWARD TO PORTUGUESE ADHERENCE TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, AND APPEALING TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL TO AVOID THE DANGER THAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS POSE TO FREEDOM. ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION IS SIMPLY EXPRESSION OF VIEW OF ASSEMBLY AND REQUIRES NO ACTION BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS.

4. PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE UNTIL NOW LIMITED TO OCCASIONAL PARTICIPATION IN TECHNICAL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL PROJECTS. PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IS STRICT CONDITION FOR MEMBERSHIP, AND LACK THEREOF CAUSED OUSTING OF GREECE IN 1969. IF DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS ARE IN FACT HELD AND IMPLEMENTED THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE COUNCIL WILL WELCOME PORTUGAL TO FULL MEMBERSHIP AND WITH OPEN ARMS.

5. TEXTS OF MINISTERIAL DECLARATION, ASSEMBLY DEBATE AND RESOLUTION POUCHED LISBON AND DEPARTMENT EUR/IB.
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